

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, 1878, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. (1878) 23 St. Aubyn Road, Monday. My darling Alec:

I had such a splendid long letter from you this morning, and we all enjoyed it immensely. I am so glad your trousers fit you so well and that you write in such good spirits even though everybody was away, and you had such a bad headache.

I hope you won't have any more and will enjoy yourself to your heart's content. The letter was not a bit too long, I only wish I could give you as good in exchange. Do you really think those jaunting cars comfortable. We all went to ride on one, the driver's legs if I remember rightly dangling over the horse's tail when we were at Queenstown four years ago, and thought it most uncomfortable. Your sketch does give a good idea of it.

Have you seen the long article in the Times about the Telephone Phonograph and Microphone, I think it the most carefully unfair, unjust thing. I ever read in my life and I want to cry every time I think of it. The coolness of the Editor in inserting that and not your letter which was not half as long. I can't stand it, if I only were not your wife and not a woman I'd just write and tell the man what I think — Your discovery is a “remarkable outcome of the research of others” indeed! the credit of the consumation must be given to you though Edison thought of it in 1875 and Gray sent the first description of it to the Patent Office, while Edison and Gray and Hughes get all and more than credit for their inventions. Can't you just write a short note to the Editor of if he won't take it to the Telegraph or Standard?

Next time Mamma goes in town she will bring me out your rejected letter and I will copy it out nicely so you can see what is to be done with it. For something must be done, it is

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not fair to yourself or your friends that such things should be allowed to go uncorrected, to the Telephone cause all over the world, for of course people will prefer to use the instruments of the, as they are informed, rightful inventor of the telephone if they can get them. O Alec do try and see if you cannot compel the recognition that is your due. I am so thankful you have gone to Dublin, now you have a chance to assert yourself. Use it.

Thank you for writing to Müller. I knew you would do so as soon as you got a chance. I hope you have written to Mr. Wollaston about the Queen's telephones if not tell me and I will. Why is McClure F.R.C.S. What has he done in the way of Geography. I know he has been to China but if that qualifies a man to be a member of the Society why doesn't Mr. Fiske apply to be a corresponding member. Is a Manager of the Telephone Co. free to go and come as he likes accountable to no one for the amount of time and work he gives to their business?

I am so sorry you were disappointed in not seeing Helmholtz but not sorry in the mistake if it was the cause of your going.

I am so glad you accepted Mr. Spottiswoode's invitation. Accept all you possibly can, mix constantly with the members of the Association make as many acquaintances as the length of your stay will admit, and don't let headaches stand in your way. I know how hard and disagreeable they are at the time but by and by you will forget them and only remember the pleasure you had, pleasure that will grow greater as time goes on. I am so sorry for Hyde Clarke, it must be very disagreeable to have a "double".

I am writing now from our new house you perceive. I am sitting in the dining room while Sister lies on the sofa a really 3 big and comfortable one. There are folding doors opening into her bedroom. This is the ground floor. Above is the parlor and our room over Sister's, on the third story Berta's and Elsie's rooms. They are all very nicely and pleasantly furnished and the sewing Maid is so pretty I tremble for your peace of mind. No, you know I don't really, but she really has the prettiest face I have seen for a great while. I think your

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baby feels better today she slept soundly for a long time this morning and has been bright and happy all this afternoon. Only I left her over at the hotel to wake up, and when Bessie was bringing her home she announced her advent a long way off in a very unmistakable way. Baby and Bessie are going to mail my letter so with much love,

Yours lovingly. Have a real good time and stay as long as you can.